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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 8 - 19 and 21 – 33 are pending in the application. Claims 8 – 19 and 21 – 33 have been rejected. Claims 25, 28 and 29 have been amended.

Claims 28 and 29 have been voluntarily amended for clarification only. This amendment is not being made for reasons of patentability.

The Personal Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner, Yonel Beaulieu, for granting and attending the personal interview, with Applicants' Representative, Heidi M. Brun, Reg. No. 34,504, on April 8, 2003. The Examiner's Interview Summary describes the interview.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, 11 – 17, 19, 22 – 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Schneider et al. (US 4,856,072). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

The Examiner insists that item 22 of Schneider et al., which is a numeric keypad, meets the limitation of "a handwriting recognition unit" because:

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“Given the broadest interpretation in examining the claimed invention, the definition provided by Applicants does not preclude the claimed limitation from being met because item 22 in Schneider provides for an operator to enter enable code; in other words, the information entered is recognized by the system; thus, this idea of handwriting recognition information.” (Office Action, Page 2, lines 6 – 10).

Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in the interests of moving prosecution forward, Applicants have amended claim 25 to read, *inter alia*,

“... a voice recognition unit to recognize voice input and to output at least one first command from at least one command data set;
a handwriting recognition unit to recognize handwritten input and to output at least one second command from said at least one command data set; ...”

Similarly, claim 33 reads, *inter alia*:

“... controlling at least one appliance within a vehicle with at least one signal generated from recognition of voice and handwritten input.”

Item 22 of Schneider et al. does not “recognize handwritten input”; it receives keypresses and passes information regarding which key is pressed to microcomputer 14. It therefore does not meet the limitations of amended claim 25, nor those of non-amended claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8, 9, 11 – 17, 19, 22 – 29 and 33 are allowable over Schneider et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 8, 9, 11 – 17, 19, 22 – 29 and 33.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 21, 30 – 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. ('072) in view of Obradovich (US 6,282,464).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The Examiner stated that:

“Regarding Applicants’ arguments (page 3, the six paragraphs under Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103), the Examiner maintains Obradovich has not been relied upon for the teaching of the “handwriting recognition”.” (Office Action, page 2, third paragraph)

Applicants understand that the Examiner did not rely on Obradovich for the teaching of “handwriting recognition”; however, as discussed above, Schneider et al. does not show any handwriting recognition and, as discussed previously, Obradovich does not teach “handwriting recognition”. Thus, the combination of Schneider et al. and Obradovich can not produce any of the inventions recited in claims 10, 21 and 30 – 32 since both Schneider et al. and Obradovich do not have any handwriting recognition.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 10, 21, 30 – 32.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 501380.

Respectfully submitted,



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